The second part of my question is very important. A mention has already been made that 212 idols were recovered and that efforts are being made to match them. Now the matching can be done in a very scientific manner by taking them to the archaeological places where missing idols were there and taking samples from both these. In this manner, radioactive matching can be done. I would like to know whether scientific matching has been resorted to match them quickly and to restore them to the original places.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: The answer is 'yes' to both parts of his question. We have issued guidelines to various State Governments to take steps to preserve the antiques and art objects. This includes determining the age and the period of the idol, photography and then taking steps to secure the idols. Many of these idols are brought out for worship and then they are taken back to safe rooms. As far as matching is concerned, it is being done with the most advanced technology available in the country. We are trying to match these idols with the idols which have been reported to have been stolen.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question.

Balance of trade position with EEC

*86. SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what was the position of balance of trade between India and EEC countries during the last two financial years, yearwise;

(b) what position is expected durring the current financial year;

(c) whether the above balance of trade position has been adverse; and

(d) if so, what steps are being taken to reduce the trade gap with EEC countries?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The balance of Indo-EEC trade during the last two financial years was as follows:—

(Rs. crores)

	Exports	Imports	Balance of Trade
1984-85	1985.20	4186.91	— 2201.71
1985-86*	1945.81	5001.94	— 3066.13

*Provisional.

(b) The position in the current financial year (April—September) *vis-a-vis* the corresponding period during 1985-86 is as follows:

(Rs. crores

	April-September	
	1985-86	1986-87
Exports . .	864.57	1152.37
Imports . .	2286.02	2905.05
Deficit . . .	1421.95	1752.68

*Provisional

(c) and (d) In order to minimise the trade gap, efforts continue to be made to increase Indian exports to the EEC countries through various trade promotion measures such as exhibitions, trade fairs, exchange of delegations especially for product development and other marketing activities besides seeking better access for Indian products in EEC markets.

श्री कल्पनाथ राय : सभापति महोदय, 1984-85 की तुलना में 1985-86 में करीब नौ सौ करोड़ का ज्यादा इम्पोर्ट हुआ है। तो क्या मंत्री महोदय बताने की

कृपा करेंगे कि कौन-सा आईटम्स का ज्यादा इम्पोर्ट हुआ है?

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: To the extent items that have been imported more from the EEC countries, they are normally iron and steel, sugar, fertilizers, dairy products, animal fats, etc.

श्री कल्पनाथ राय : श्रीमन्, 1985-86 की तुलना में एक्सपोर्ट कम हुआ है, इसका कारण क्या है? एक्सपोर्ट बढ़ाने के लिए सरकार ने विदेशों में एग्जीविशन, इण्डस्ट्रियल फेयर लगाये हैं। इतना कुछ करने के बावजूद भी एक्सपोर्ट पर उसका कुछ असर नहीं मालूम होता है। एक्सपोर्ट कम क्यों हुआ है?

श्री पी० शिवशंकर : ऐसी बात नहीं है कि एक्सपोर्ट, निर्यात कम होता रहा है। निर्यात बढ़ता ही जा रहा है।

इस वर्ष जहां तक कि पहले छह महीने का प्रश्न है, 33 प्रतिशत निर्यात बढ़ा है और इसी तरह से गत वर्ष भी बढ़ा है उससे पहले वर्ष के मुकाबले में।

जो जहां तक हुकूमत का सवाल है, काफी चर्चायें ली जा रही हैं। जैसा कि मैंने कहा कि ट्रेड फैयर ही नहीं, बल्कि हम लोग इस बात की भी चेष्टा कर रहे हैं, हमारे जो कुछ भी पदार्थ हैं उन पदार्थों के लिए वहां से भी लोगों को बुला रहे हैं। मैं खुद गया था हाल में, मैंने खुद ई०ई०सी० कण्ट्रीज के कमिश्नर से बातचीत की है और उनके जो व्यापारी कमिश्नर हैं उनसे मैंने स्पष्ट रूप से कहा कि जबतककि हमारा निर्यात नहीं बढ़ेगा, यह जोजो ट्रेड गैप है, इसको खत्म करना मुश्किल हो जाएगा और उन्होंने भी इस बात को सही कहा--उन्होंने कहा कि वह भी चाहेंगे कि ट्रेड गैप कम किया जाए।

PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, if we look at the figures given, they make very interesting reading. The deficit in the year 1985-86 was of the order of Rs. 3,066.13 crores. But then this has been covered cleverly while giving the figures for the two periods of April—September in 1985-86 and 1986-87. Sir, in the year 1985-86, in the first six months, the deficit was only of the order of Rs. 1421.95 crores. But for the next six months, it goes up by leaps and bounds. Similarly, if that is the indication, the deficit that has been given as Rs. 1752.68 crores for the first six months is bound to be much higher for the next six months in the current year. Sir, this is the position when the Minister says that continued efforts are being made to increase Indian exports through certain activities. Sir, it is very clear that the efforts that have been made are not sufficient to reduce and minimize the trade deficit. Therefore, I would like to ask the Minister whether the various Trade Missions, Embassies, etc. working in the EEC countries have been making continuous efforts to promote the Indian goods and if so what its impact has been.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: Sir, the question is with reference to the efforts that are being made. In fact, Sir, I must submit that in the first half of January of this year I led a Delegation for the Fourth Joint Commission. Apart from the fact that I had discussions with the concerned EEC authorities, I called a meeting of the Commercial Representatives in the Western Europe. I was with them for two days and we discussed various ways and means by virtue of which we could see that our products register an increase in the sale in the EEC countries. Sir, I would like to say that this year, in the first half of the year itself, there was an increase of 33 per cent of the trade by way of exports from India to EEC countries. But there had also been an increase in imports. I am not saying that; that reflects in the trade gap with the EEC countries. I

am aware that so far as the EEC countries are concerned, if you go through the figure of 1985-86, 35 per cent of our entire deficit is with the EEC countries. And we are making consistent efforts to see that our exports increase and this trade deficit is bridged.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I compliment the Government for increasing the exports by 17 per cent in the current year while the import has been increasing by 2 per cent only. But as regards the EEC countries, the picture is quite different. Sir, exports have gone up in the current year as compared to the last year. In the same period it has gone up by only Rs. 300 crores whereas so far as imports are concerned. It has gone up by Rs. 600 crores. That means that so far as imports are concerned, it has increased by more than 25 per cent whereas the total imports have increased by 2 per cent. I fear that the deficit, which was in 1985-86 from these countries only Rs. 3,066 crores, if this trend continues, the deficit at the end of the year from EEC countries will go up to more than Rs. 3,600 crores and as such I would like to know what efforts the Government are making in this regard so that our imports are curtailed and whether the Government will at all consider revision of some of the items which are in the OGL so that the trade deficit which may amount to Rs. 3,600 crores, can be reduced to such an extent that the overall picture which emerges from 2-3 per cent import can be achieved.

MR. CHAIRMAN: This relates to the year 1985-86. What is the purpose in reducing the OGL now?

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: He is asking for the future also.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: Two to three months are still there.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: Sir, I was persuing the imports from EEC countries and I was finding that on a few items which are absolutely necessary for us, it has reached the figure of around Rs. 3,400 crores, for example on iron and steel, sugar, fertilisers, dairy products animal fats, rough diamonds and grants and loans. If we take them together that by itself is going to Rs. 3,000 crores. The only way to offset the deficit would be to increase our exports and the Government has been taking the steps in that regard.

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Sir, it appears that the trade deficit in respect of Indo-EEC trade is increasing over the years. Now, Sir, the hon. Minister has not stated the reasons why this is increasing year by year. But I would like to know whether the recent policy of the Government for more and more import liberalisation is the reason for this increase in trade deficit year by year and whether the Government is going to reconsider its import liberalisation policy in view of the situation. Lastly, I would like to know whether it is only the figure of Indo-EEC trade where the total trade deficit stands during the current year.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: Sir, in this particular case having regard to the fact what I have already submitted about certain commodities, it does not appear that it is the liberalisation of imports that is reflected in more imports. Since I have said it, I would not like to repeat the items that I have already given. So far as the question of overall trade deficit being bridged is concerned, I have already given the figures. We will be able to bridge the trade deficit by more than a thousand crores of rupees.